

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jomy J. Methipara on 25 and 28 March 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

The abstract was replaced with the following:

An extruder system includes an extruder for axially extruding a rubber or plastic material in a barrel. A gear pump adjusts an amount of extruded material that is discharged by engagement of gears. The gear pump includes a driving pinion and a driven pinion engaged with, and driven by, the driving pinion. A gear casing accommodates the pinions and includes side plates on both axial sides of the pinions. A casing body is arranged between the side plates and encloses a space on a radially outer side of the pinions. The side plate includes a suction side plate that has a suction port arranged opposite to that side of engagement region between the pinions and a discharge side plate that has a discharge port arranged opposite to that side of engagement region between the pinions. The suction and discharge ports are maintained out of axial communication with each other.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID L. SORKIN whose telephone number is (571)272-1148. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter D. Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DAVID L. SORKIN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1774